

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

Alexandria Division

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	:	
	:	
v.	:	Case No. 1:10cr200 (LMB)
	:	
LEE BENTLEY FARKAS,	:	
	:	
Defendant.	:	

**NOTICE OF FILING LETTERS FOR SENTENCING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the defendant, LEE BENTLEY FARKAS, by and through his counsel, is filing the following redacted character letters (identified for filing purposes by number as “1-1” through “1-48”):

1. Erla Carter-Shaw;
2. John Cathro;
3. Robert A. Cromartie;
4. Shawn Cross;
5. Janet Duncan;
6. Joe W. Ellis;
7. Alonzo Esgaib;
8. R. William Futch;
9. David Galvan;
10. Rabbi Yossi Hecht;
11. Jim Herzberger;
12. Terri A. Huber;

13. Robert Huff;
14. Jose Interiano;<sup>1</sup>
15. Mary Ann Johnson;
16. Paulette Johnston;
17. Laurie P. Jones;
18. Debbie Kemp;
19. Marlene King;
20. Paula King;
21. Susan E. King;
22. Richard B. Klein;
23. Frances M. Lamz;
24. Joan and Norman Lapping;
25. Carlos D. Lopez;
26. Judy Lovelace;
27. Carolina Molinos;
28. Manuel M. Molinos;
29. Nedra Morose;
30. Steven Morose;
31. Carole Morrissey;
32. Deborah Nosewicz;
33. Tim Parker;

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<sup>1</sup> Mr. Interiano's letter was translated "in-house" and the original version, in Spanish, is available for review upon request.

34. Wayne Pollack;
35. Margaret A. Potter-Levane;
36. Justin Potts;
37. John M. Rennie;
38. Jerome C. Sarason;
39. Sigrid Schwartz
40. Jo-Ann Semler;
41. Mark Spaulding;
42. Kendel Standlee;
43. David Stark;
44. Samantha Stathas;
45. Jessica Vega;
46. Kimberly Wages-Bead;
47. Sarah Wood;
48. Jeanette Zufelt.

Addresses and telephone numbers have been redacted, and counsel for the defendant will maintain the original, unredacted, letters for the court's review if requested. Because the letters will be filed electronically, after being scanned, it will be necessary for them to be filed separately or in small groups, but each letter or group of letters will be filed as exhibits to this Notice.

Respectfully submitted,

LEE BENTLEY FARKAS



/s/

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The Honorable States District Judge  
United States Courthouse  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, VA 22314

May 12, 2011

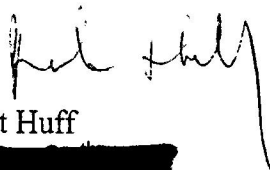

Dear Judge Brinkma,

I am writing to tell you about my personal experiences with Lee Farkas, the compassionate, caring, personal man and not Lee Farkas, the businessman persona that everyone thinks they know as him. My wife and I moved to Ocala just over 5 years ago from Fort Lauderdale. We first met Lee at a Humane Society of Marion County fundraiser (which we are still to this day involved in). It was there that we socialized with Lee, and over a glass of wine, saw his true passion; helping those around him and those that cannot help themselves. I later learned that Lee Farkas was personally responsible for funding the entire operation of the Humane Society for months on end when it had severe financial shortfalls. My wife and I became friends with Lee after this event and saw first hand how much pleasure he truly gets from making those around him happy.

I became an employee of Lee's after he learned of my experience running fine dining restaurants in Fort Lauderdale, FL. Even though SKY Asian Fusion and Ipanema Brazilian Steakhouse was just a tiny tip of his businesses, Lee made it a point to learn everyone's name and take the time to talk to them. He truly made all of his employees feel special and feel that they could go to his office at anytime with any concern, work related or not. Throughout this experience, Lee has still made it a priority to make sure that his remaining team members at Ipanema are being taken care of and he asks about them at the start of any conversation or correspondence we have.

The stories still ring around Ocala about how every year, Lee would fill his entire building with hundreds of brand new bicycles for those kids who would not get such an extravagant gift without the generosity of Lee Farkas. His community work with The Marion County Theater was well documented on how he transformed this historical building back into the shape it was in during its heyday, also bringing jobs to Marion County along with it.

I personally feel that Lee Farkas' involvement in our community has been invaluable to all those in Ocala and I am proud to be able to call Lee a close, personal friend.

  
Robert Huff  


Dear Judge,

I write to you these few words to tell you a little about Mr. Lee Farkas. I am the person who has shared a cell with him for about 5 weeks and in that short time Mr. Farkas has demonstrated to me that he is a good person. He is very friendly and likes to help everyone, and all of us who are around him say the same. And even though he is new, he behaves well with everyone and communicates well with the other prisoners, and he is a very active person. He doesn't waste his time. He reads books and exercises and he gives me good advice. I know he is a good person and people like him are few here because no one helps others. So I admire him for the good that he is. I hope you consider this when you sentence him because he truly does help others.

Jose Interiano

May 20, 2011

The Honorable Leonie M. Brinkema  
United States District Judge  
United States Courthouse  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Honorable Brinkema:

On behalf of Lee Farkas, my name is Mary Ann Johnson I was Lee's personal travel counselor for six years, then accepted the position as Director of Corporate Travel at Taylor Bean & Whitaker Mortgage Company in 2006, working directly for Lee. As Director of Corporate Travel, I was given the task to manage all travel within the company, including meeting/convention, and coordinated Lee's travel.



Lee established the Taylor Bean & Whitaker Foundation to assist employees who needed short term financial help. All commission checks earned through the travel department were directly deposited into the Taylor Bean Whitaker Foundation. On one occasion a employee's husband died of a massive heart attack, with no insurance, or enough savings to bury him the foundation step forward and paid for the funeral. At Christmas he made sure children of employees who were less fortunate received a Christmas gifts. This is one example of how Lee truly cared about his employees by establishing the foundation.

Lee travel continuously it was very difficult at times for me to get his undivided attention, which I needed to finalize travel arrangements. As a rule I worked a couple hours on Saturdays it was quiet with no interruptions I never minded working the extra time. Lee came into my office pulled up a chair, when I looked up noticed he had black circles around his eyes, was extremely tired from the week. I made the comment you look like "hell", he then confessed he'd been working 18 hour days, there were many days where he had meetings Washington DC, New York, and Chicago without the jet he could not have made these appointments, Lee worked harder than anyone at Taylor Bean, I know that first hand. After a long conversation it became very apparent to me of his deep commitment to our company. Yes, Lee could be very demanding, he simply expected his directors to do their job and update him where we stood on projects, he did not like surprises.

Lee was not only a great boss, he became a personal friend. My best friend was dying of cancer I spent two weeks in Charlotte, everyday he called to make sure I was okay. After I returned to Ocala he invited to dinner we talked a long time about our families, he knew I grew up in Ocala wanted to make sure I was enjoying being back home and more importantly happy with my job, which I was. I would go back to work for Lee tomorrow without hesitation that's how much faith and respect I have for him.

Your Honor Brinkema before you pass sentence on Lee please consider the man I know and take into consideration all the great things he has done for his employees, Marion County, the many lives he touch with his generosity.

Sincerely,

  
Mary Ann Johnson  




May 18, 2011

The Honorable Leonie M. Brinkema

United States District Judge

United States Courthouse

401 Courthouse Square

Alexandria, VA 22314

Honorable Leonie M. Brinkema,

Lee Farkas is such a giving individual to our community. I remember when the downtown area of Ocala FL. was undesirable. He helped turned it around to be a prosperous place to be proud of. He made sure that employees always had help if needed; Some had their houses burn down and he was always there for them, some had family members with illnesses and even deaths and he would do what he could to support and comfort them. He has given jobs to individuals that were out of work because of our economy without a question. He even helped them with their expenses because they were troubled from bad times. Give consideration and reflect on the public figure he was to our community.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paulette Johnston". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

Paulette Johnston

The Honorable Leonie M Brinkema

United States District Judge

United States Courthouse

401 Courthouse Square

Alexandria, VA 22314

Judge Brinkema,


It is truly a privilege to write a letter in Support of Lee Farkas.

While serving as a Founding Sponsor and Chairperson of Fund Raising for The Florida Horse Park in Marion County, Florida I met Mr. Farkas. The Park was raising funds for its initial Barns to be built and Mr. Farkas was an avid supporter of charities in the county. He met my request, in fact doubled the amount we asked for which led to many others following in his steps. His constant support allowed me an insight into this very special human being. Mr. Farkas gave with to so many over the years I have known him as a purely charitable gesture at no benefit to himself.

This is just one example of the man I have come to call my friend -

Sincerely,


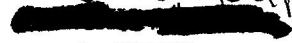

Laurie P. Jones



Honorable Judge Leonie M. Brinkema,

I want to start by saying that I have known Lee Farkas both personally as well as professionally for eight years, and during this time I have found him to be someone who has a good heart and concern for his community. I have two daughters who were both born here in Ocala. I will never forget their faces when they went ice skating for the first time! These are girls who had never seen snow, and thanks to Lee's community involvement, they were able to ice skate in Florida! It was a holiday event that they still talk of to this day, and something I will never forget.

Debbie Kemp

May 20, 2011

Your Honor,

I write to you to express my support for Lee Bentley Farkas. I know that soon you will be sentencing Lee, so please allow me to share with you my perspective regarding some qualities about this kind, tender man that I ask you to consider while contemplating his sentence.

One thing you do not know about Lee that you undoubtedly will find surprising...something which confounded me when I first got to know him...is that Lee attributes little value to the material possessions that his wealth has afforded him. For Lee materialism holds a low priority.

Lee never rejoiced in his "stuff" because acquisition of finery was not the point. It simply wasn't important to him. A cup of tea and warm conversation with a friend or loved one was his true satisfaction, and those special moments were where he found his life's beauty.

Lee's drive to create and sustain a large business was not because of a desire for an opulent life-style but rather for the grand contribution he, together with a thriving company, could make in Ocala and beyond. Lee knew that Taylor Bean's viability would guarantee a future of opportunity for vast numbers of people, some of whom had never before been given a chance!

He trusted that his employees worked hard. He believed in them. He inspired everyone to be the best they could be, realize their greatest potentials and develop or deepen each one's self-respect and self-esteem. This man's life focus has been on caring for everyone he has ever known and the countless others whose worlds he brightened through charitable works over the years. These were the things that defined Lee's personal joy!

But we have all made poor choices in our lifetimes - personal, professional, even spiritual - resulting in outcomes we never expected. I've never met a person who hasn't lamented hindsight being 20/20. Lee, like all of us, misjudged things along the way, but he ran his company with faith, optimism and diligence in an effort to make things right for all. For everyone.

I am grateful to know Lee Farkas and oh, so proud to call him my friend. I will always love and respect him. All who know Lee admire him and join me in my shock over what has happened here.

Your Honor, I appreciate the daunting task before you. After having listened to a rigorous prosecution of Lee, you are the one and only one authorized to set his sentence. I beg your Honor for mercy and compassion as you sentence him.

Please find it in your heart to be lenient as you decide the future of a spiritual man who every waking moment tried to help his friends, colleagues and family by putting their hopes and dreams ahead of his own. His heart has always been in the right place.

I ask you to please, please take the soul of this man, as only those who actually know him truly understand, into consideration as you decide Lee's fate.

Thank you for reading.

Respectfully,

*Marlene King*

Marlene King

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

May 23, 2011

The Honorable Leonie M. Brinkema  
United States District Judge  
United States Courthouse  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, Va. 22314

Re: Lee Farkas

Dear Judge Brinkema:

Please allow me to share with you my impression of Lee's impact on Ocala, where I have lived for 22 years; where I have worked, done my volunteer work, and raised my children.

Until recently, I had not met Lee except briefly, his work only known to me by observance of positive change in Ocala and through his support of a fundraising project I co-chaired in 2001-2002. As an active participant in business and community affairs, it was easy to see the increased employment through Taylor, Bean & Whitaker during the years preceding and through the real estate boom, the employment increase through the opening of four other businesses of which I am aware.

Not as well-known are his significant and consistent philanthropic efforts done very quietly. I know of these things only through my connections with others involved in fund raising. While Taylor Bean has closed, his other businesses continue to make a positive impact on our small local economy in providing jobs and improving the quality of life for everyday people who live here. I feel it is important to state that his charitable efforts continue to build as well.

As Chairman of the Board of Directors of Marion Cultural Alliance, I was directly aware of Lee's support of the Horse Fever Public Art Project. Twenty-seven local charities partook of the \$854,000 raised that evening. Years later, when I thanked him for his anonymous and key contribution to our project, his response was simply, "I wanted to get it going."

Those few words succinctly describe in total what I had witnessed of his commitment here. His work demonstrates a fundamental belief in Ocala. He lived here. He opened businesses to support businesses. Among his charitable efforts were causes in their darkest hour, most notably the Humane Society. Lee located his businesses in blighted areas and restored an historic downtown theater that now serves as an anchor of a revitalization effort. As late as this weekend the Marion Theater was the scene of a community event that brought out thousands of our citizenry.

But for Lee's demonstrated belief in the necessity of such institutions as components of a healthy and thriving community, these two entities would no longer exist and many others would be far the lesser. To my knowledge, in the history of Ocala, no one has done more for charitable and civic causes than Lee Farkas. This is a large and undeniable part of his legacy and speaks loudly of the character of a man who served the place in which he lived.

Sincerely yours,



Paula King

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]